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Commonwealth Edison Company

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Address Reply to:

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station
R.R. #1
Morris, Illinois 60450
January 8, 1971

Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

SUBJECT: License DPR-19 Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit #2
Section 6.6.C.1 of the Technical Specifications

Dear Dr. Morris:

This is to report a condition relating to the operation of the station in which on December 30, 1970 the oxygen content of the primary containment rose to 5% O₂ by weight as specified by section 3.7.A.5.a. of the Technical Specification requiring plant shutdown.

PROBLEM, INVESTIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

The Unit was operating base loaded at approximately 70% of rated power. The primary containment was operating inerted with nitrogen gas with the average O₂ content approximately 4.0% by weight. At approximately 4PM on 12-30-70 an increasing trend in both containment pressure and O₂ content was noted. Because of this trend an instrument air leak within the containment was suspected.

An orderly power reduction was then initiated in accordance with Section 3.7.A.6. of the Technical Specifications. The limiting condition for operation of 5% oxygen by weight was reached at 11:00 PM on 12-30-70.

The Unit was taken off line and the reactor placed in the cold shutdown condition at 4:15 PM on 12-31-70.

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Following isolation of the primary system the suspected instrument air leak was confirmed by manually closing the supply isolation valve and observing a rapid system pressure drop. Subsequent de-inerting and drywell entry visually confirmed the source of leakage as a failed 1/2" close nipple in the supply air line to "1A" main steam isolation valve (MSIV) pilot valve. This nipple failure in no way compromised the ability of that

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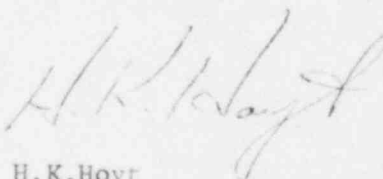
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MSIV to operate since full closure tests were performed on all MSIV's during the shutdown on 12-31-70.

The defective nipple was replaced and the unit critical again on 1-2-71 at 4:30 PM.



H.K. Hoyt
Superintendent

HKH:rh